



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN BLASTS GANN'S MIDDLE EAST STAND

In a strongly worded statement issued in Washington, Congressman Henry A. Waxman denounced the Middle East "white paper" obtained by the Los Angeles Times from the Republican headquarters of the Paul Gann for Senate campaign as "shocking, dangerous and totally irresponsible."

Waxman said that Gann's hasty "revision" of the white paper appeared to be "purely expedient and devoid of any sincerity."

Waxman said, "Paul Gann's original statement on the Middle East was an open invitation to every anti-Semite and to confused or naive citizens to blame Israel and American Jews for the price of gasoline, the cost of Middle East oil and, in fact, the entire energy crisis. Gann's assertion that territorial concessions by Israel would result in reduced oil costs is ridiculous. Nothing Israel does will affect OPEC prices by even a cent."

Waxman said he found it impossible to believe that the hasty deletion of the most shocking material reflected a change in Gann's thinking. Rather, the Congressman said, the deletions and changes appear to have been a panic response by the Republican Senatorial candidate's campaign to a barrage of negative comments prompted by reports of the original "white paper."

The Gann statement with which Waxman took issue so strongly is very similar to the controversial Middle East policy address given by Texan John Connally early in his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination. That speech was viewed by some as responsible to some degree for the failure of Connally's campaign. Accord-

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ing to Los Angeles Times reporter, Larry Stammer, both the original and revised Gann "white paper" have whole sections which were borrowed "almost word for word" from the Connally address.

Waxman said, "The similarity between the Connally and Gann speeches and the fact that Gann's press secretary, Jim McAvoy, was a high-level Connally campaign staffer proves that the two Republican campaigns are directly related."

Waxman rated as "most ludicrous" Gann's suggestion that Israel voluntarily turn over the city of Jerusalem to an impartial group such as the United Nations.

"How can anyone aspiring to a seat in the United States Senate be so naive as to consider the UN impartial on Middle East matters or the Israelis so self-destructive as to surrender their holiest and most important city? How can anyone making such assertions, as Gann did, expect voters to ignore them when the candidates out of embarrassment says he never really meant them?"

Waxman, a long-time personal friend and supporter of Gann's Democratic opponent, Senator Alan Cranston, said that he would not be satisfied merely with a Cranston victory. He called for the repudiation of Republican Paul Gann's candidacy "by the greatest margin in California's political history."

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